

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An object editing apparatus comprising:

storage means for storing data which describes
5 objects and a dependency relationship among these
objects;

display means for displaying, in accordance with
this data, the objects and the dependency relationship
thereof as a tree which connects image objects
10 corresponding to the objects;

operating means for editing and manipulating the
image objects on the tree; and

editing means for editing the description of the
data in accordance with the editing operation performed
15 by said operating means.

2. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said
operating means includes an operation for moving or
copying the image objects; and

said editing means includes an operation for moving
20 or copying, in conformity with the manipulation of an
image object, the description of the object, which
corresponds to the image object that has been
manipulated, in the data that has been stored in said
storage means.

25 3. The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said
data is form data that is overlaid on print data, and

the objects include a page which constitutes form data and a parts form which constitutes the page.

4. The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein in a case where an image object has been moved by said
5 operating means onto an image object indicating a page, said editing means edits the form data in such a manner that if the moved image object is a parts form, a parts form corresponding to the moved image object will be added onto the end of a page located at the destination
10 of movement.

5. The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein in a case where an image object has been moved by said operating means onto an image object indicating a page, said editing means edits the form data in such a manner
15 that if the moved image object is a page, a page corresponding to the moved image object will be added on immediately ahead of a page located at the destination of movement.

6. The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the form
20 data further includes double sides which include the objects of two pages, and in a case where an image object has been moved by said operating means onto an image object indicating a page, said editing means edits the form data in such a manner that if the moved image
25 object is a page and a prescribed operation is being performed along with the move operation, a double-sided

object is generated that includes a page corresponding to the moved image object and a page located at the destination of movement.

7. The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein in a
5 case where an image object has been moved by said
operating means onto an image object indicating a part
form, said editing means edits the form data in such a
manner that if the moved image object is a parts form, a
parts form corresponding to the moved image object will
10 be added on immediately ahead of a parts form located at
the destination of movement.

8. The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein in a
case where an image object has been moved by said
operating means to a position other than that of an
15 image object, said editing means edits the form data in
such a manner that if the moved image object is a parts
form, a new page will be inserted at the end of the form
data and a parts form corresponding to the moved image
object will be inserted as a parts form included on said
20 page.

9. The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein in a
case where an image object has been moved by said
operating means to a position other than that of an
image object, said editing means edits the form data in
25 such a manner that if the moved image object is a page,
a page corresponding to the moved image object,

inclusive of a parts form included on this page, will be added onto the end of the form data.

10. The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said operating means includes an operation for moving an
5 image object from outside the tree, and said editing means, in conformity with the manipulation of the object, adds the description of an object, which corresponds to an image object that has been moved, onto data that has been stored in said storage means.

10 11. The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein in a case where a prescribed operation has been performed by said operating means when an image object is moved, said editing means performs further editing, after the editing of the form data, in such a manner that an
15 object corresponding to an image object that has been moved by said operating means is deleted from the position occupied prior to movement.

12. An object editing method for editing objects on a tree in which, in accordance with data which describes
20 the objects and a dependency relationship among these objects, the objects and the dependency relationship thereof are displayed by image objects, said method comprising:

an operating step of editing and manipulating the
25 image objects on the tree; and

an editing step of editing the description of the

data in accordance with the editing operation performed at said operating step.

13. The method according to claim 12, wherein said operating step includes an operation for moving or

5 copying the image objects; and

said editing step moves or copies, in conformity with the manipulation of an image object, the description of the object, which corresponds to the image object that has been manipulated, in the data that
10 has been stored at said storage step.

14. The method according to claim 13, wherein said data is form data on which print data is overlaid, and the objects include a page which constitutes form data and a parts form which constitutes the page.

15 15. The method according to claim 14, wherein in a case where an image object has been moved at said operating step onto an image object indicating a page, said editing step edits the form data in such a manner that if the moved image object is a parts form, a parts form
20 corresponding to the moved image object will be added onto the end of a page located at the destination of movement.

16. The method according to claim 14, wherein in a case where an image object has been moved at said operating
25 step onto an image object indicating a page, said editing step edits the form data in such a manner that

if the moved image object is a page, a page corresponding to the moved image object will be added on immediately ahead of a page located at the destination of movement.

5 17. The method according to claim 14, wherein the form data further includes double sides which include the objects of two pages, and in a case where an image object has been moved at said operating step onto an image object indicating a page, said editing step edits
10 the form data in such a manner that if the moved image object is a page and a prescribed operation is being performed along with the move operation, a double-sided object is generated that includes a page corresponding to the moved image object and a page located at the
15 destination of movement.

18. The method according to claim 14, wherein in a case where an image object has been moved at said operating step onto an image object indicating a part form, said editing step edits the form data in such a manner that
20 if the moved image object is a parts form, a parts form corresponding to the moved image object will be added on immediately ahead of a parts form located at the destination of movement.

19. The method according to claim 14, wherein in a case
25 where an image object has been moved at said operating step to a position other than that of an image object,

said editing step edits the form data in such a manner that if the moved image object is a parts form, a new page will be inserted at the end of the form data and a parts form corresponding to the moved image object will be inserted as a parts form included on said page.

20. The method according to claim 14, wherein in a case where an image object has been moved at said operating step to a position other than that of an image object, said editing step edits the form data in such a manner that if the moved image object is a page, a page corresponding to the moved image object, inclusive of a parts form included on this page, will be added onto the end of the form data.

21. The method according to claim 14, wherein said operating step includes an operation for moving an image object from outside the tree, and said editing step, in conformity with the manipulation of the object, adds the description of an object, which corresponds to an image object that has been moved, onto data that has been stored at said storage step.

22. The method according to claim 13, wherein in a case where a prescribed operation has been performed at said operating step when an image object is moved, said editing step performs further editing, after the editing of the form data, in such a manner that an object corresponding to an image object that has been moved at

said operating step is deleted from the position occupied prior to movement.

23. A computer-readable storage medium storing a control program of an object editing method, said

5 control program comprising:

storage means for storing data which describes objects and a dependency relationship among these objects;

display means for displaying, in accordance with
10 this data, the objects and the dependency relationship thereof as a tree which connects image objects corresponding to the objects;

operating means for editing and manipulating the image objects on the tree; and

15 editing means for editing the description of the data in accordance with the editing operation performed by said operating means.

24. The storage medium according to claim 23, wherein said operating means includes an operation for moving or
20 copying the image objects; and

said editing means moves or copies, in conformity with the manipulation of an image object, the description of the object, which corresponds to the image object that has been manipulated, in the data that
25 has been stored in said storage means.

25. The storage medium according to claim 24, wherein

said data is form data that is overlaid on print data,
and the objects include a page which constitutes form
data and a parts form which constitutes the page.